

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 305441
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 MCT-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 USSS-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SS-15
SSO-00 INRE-00 /050 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:GLISTER:MMS

APPROVED BY ARA:CWBRAV

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O 162329Z DEC 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRIEST RETURNS - BERTRAND

1. US CATHOLIC CONFERENCE AND WASHINGTON OFFICE ON LATIN AMERICA ARE URGENTLY PRESSING DEPARTMENT FOR INFORMATION ON FOLLOWING REPORT THEY HAVE RECEIVED: CAPUCHIN PRIEST FATHER EVARIST BERTRAND WAS PICKED UP BY NICARAGUA NATIONAL GUARD ON DECEMBER 14. FOUR US PRIESTS WHO WERE WITH HIM TRIED TO FOLLOW THE NATIONAL GUARD JEEP BUT WERE TOLD TO STOP. BORDER CROSSING RECORDS INDICATE BERTRAND WAS DEPORTED TO HONDURAS ON DECEMBER 14 AT 11 AM AT LOS MANOS, BUT APPARENTLY HE IS NOT REPEAT NOT IN HONDURAS, AND IT IS FEARED NATIONAL GUARD STILL HAS HIM OR THAT HE IS DEAD. BISHOP CARRANZA OF NICARAGUA VERY WORRIED.

2. FATHER BERTRAND IS AMERICAN CITIZEN. YOU SHOULD URGENTLY CONTACT APPROPRIATE GON AND GOH AUTHORITIES TO
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INQUIRE RE FATHER BERTRAND'S WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS.
PLEASE CABLE ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION.

ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cahillha
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE305441
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GLISTER:MMS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760463-0850
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761235/aaaabejs.tel
Line Count: 60
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 NOV 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by ullricre>; WITHDRAWN <28 OCT 2004 by coburnhl, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <02 NOV 2004 by cahillha>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2004 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN PRIEST RETURNS - BERTRAND
TAGS: CGEN, SHUM, NU, US, (BERTRAND, EVARIST)
To: MANAGUA TEGUCIGALPA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006